SIX NATIONS OF THE GRAND RIVER:
HALDIMAND TRACT TRIAL WEEKLY SUMMARY

Week of October 26, 2026

Oral History Evidence Continues

The court continued hearing oral history evidence from Six Nations of the Grand River (SNGR) this week.

Before hearing the testimony, Canada and Ontario challenged whether the evidence should be accepted by the court. As a result, the judge is first hearing the evidence through a special process called a *voir dire,* a hearing in which the judge hears the proposed evidence before determining whether it will be admitted. Any evidence not admitted will not be considered in the Court's final decision. After hearing the testimony, the judge will decide whether the evidence can be admitted and considered as part of the trial.

Due to witness scheduling, court was only in session on October 26 and 27, 2026. The trial is on a scheduled break all this week and will resume on November 9, 2026.

Joe Martin — October 26-27, 2026

Joe Martin, a member of the Upper Mohawk Band and Bear Clan, testified about oral history teachings he received from both his Kanien'kehá:ka and Anishinaabe family members. He explained that he began learning traditional teachings, language, and ceremony at a young age.

Martin's testimony focused on Haudenosaunee teachings, including the Great Law of Peace, the Code of Handsome Lake, the Creation Story, and the Covenant Chain relationship with the Crown. He explained that the Covenant Chain represents a mutual commitment between Six Nations and the Crown to support one another when called upon. Martin testified that the Haldimand Tract was an example of this relationship, arising from Six Nations' alliance with the Crown during the American Revolution.

Martin also spoke about the relationship between SNGR and the Mississaugas of the Credit. Drawing on teachings passed down through his family, he testified that the land was purchased by the British for the benefit of SNGR and described the Dish With One Spoon wampum as an agreement to share the land and its resources.

During cross-examination, Martin provided further details about the sources of his knowledge and discussed a previous social media post in which he stated that Confederacy Chiefs and Clan Mothers possess greater oral history knowledge than he does. He also acknowledged that traditional leadership chose not to participate in the trial because they maintain that Canadian courts do not have jurisdiction to interpret the Haldimand Deed.

Looking Ahead

The trial is adjourned for a scheduled break and will resume on November 9, 2026, when the court is expected to continue hearing oral history evidence from SNGR witnesses.

Adapted from a document by JFK Law for Six Nations of the Grand River. For information only — not legal advice. Current as of Nov. 2, 2026.

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